

2009 Bicentennial Coins & Sets

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Bicentennial Coins & Sets 2009

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Stamps & Coins: Silver dollar captures Lincoln's words, too

Published Saturday, Mar. 21, 2009

The U.S. Mint is releasing a commemorative Abraham Lincoln silver dollar this month showcasing the 16th president in both image and words.

The head side of the Lincoln silver dollar features a portrait of the president. It's a nice representation showing him as a young and healthy statesman.

That's a far cry from his appearance a few years later during the waning days of the Civil War. Photos from that time show the toll the war took on Lincoln.

He may have aged markedly during the war, but his appearance at his second inaugural in 1865 proved that his mind was as sharp as ever.

Inscribed on the reverse of the dollar coin, inside a laurel wreath, are some of the words he spoke at Gettysburg in 1863, now considered "one of the most beautiful and poetic statements in American literature," "we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The new dollar is a commemorative issue and is minted from silver, so it naturally costs far more than its face value and won't be found in general circulation. A portion of the surcharge goes to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission for the continued study of his life. Mintages for the coins are limited to 500,000.

Pricing for the Lincoln silver dollar is \$41.95 for highly polished "proof" versions and \$33.95 for the uncirculated variety.

The coins are available from the Mint at www.usmint.gov or by calling (800) 872-6468.

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Peter Rexford writes for Creators Syndicate. Contact him at P.O. Box 50377, St. Louis, MO 63105.





Lincoln

A Monumental Coin

Abraham Lincoln broke the mold
for illustrating U.S. currency.

BY MIKE COPPOCK



Seventh-grader Brooke Wessels was inside her rural Oklahoma school in Billings when she noticed someone had dropped some coins on the floor. She began picking up the money; but when reaching for a penny, she paused, and then walked away.

"I was always told picking up a penny with Lincoln's face down is bad luck," Brooke said with a Norman Rockwell-esque innocence to her voice. She said her mother had given her that warning, as had her grandmother and other friends. And she is not alone. Nor is her experience at all a recent development. Abraham Lincoln is the only individual to appear on American currency with such a long-lasting superstition connected to his image.

"It goes back to medieval England," said Douglas Mudd, curator of the American Numismatic Association's Money Museum in Colorado Springs, Colo., and a descendent of the Dr. Samuel Mudd who is



Lincoln

connected to Lincoln's assassination. Mudd's ancestor had been sent to prison for setting John Wilkes Booth's broken leg shortly after Lincoln's murder. "Back in the Middle Ages, the king or local sovereign minted coins of the realm with his image on them. Thus, if one defaced a coin or it was turned upside down, it usually brought some form of bad luck to the owner," Mudd explained. "The king would not be happy that you had defaced his image."

"It goes back to the belief that you buried people face down as a form of insult."

From the earliest days of the Republic, America had avoided using the image of actual people on currency, especially minted coins. George Washington personally quashed an attempt to honor him this way during his lifetime saying he already had enjoyed more than enough honors.

"Lady Liberty was used on so much of our coinage [see page 39] because our republic belonged to the people rather than to one man or group of people," explained Rod Gillis, numismatic educator for the association. And often, when Lady Liberty was not used on U.S. coinage, an eagle was. By the time Theodore Roosevelt became president (1901-1909), the image of a Native American—the "Indian head" penny—was on the one-cent piece. Roosevelt thought designs on American currencies were boring and did not reflect well the new status America had gained as a rising world power. He asked friend and sculptor Augustus Saint-

Gaudens to give American money—not just the penny, but all U.S. currency—a facelift with a classical Greek slant.

An Irish American from New Hampshire, Saint-Gaudens already had won national fame and wealth through sculptures of Union generals of the Civil War. He had been diagnosed with cancer in 1900, and knowing he did not have many years left, he still took up Roosevelt's request to revamp the coins.

A revolution in U.S. coin design

For the one-cent piece, Saint-Gaudens came up with Lady Liberty wearing an Indian headdress. However, Congress was taking note that 1909 was the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Under congressional orders, Saint-Gaudens' design was redirected from the penny to the \$20 gold piece. Saint-Gaudens' high-relief double-eagle gold coin is still considered by collectors the most beautiful coin ever minted in the United States, Gillis said. Only 12,367 of the rare pieces were minted in 1907, the year of Saint-Gaudens' death.

As for the Lincoln penny, a simple design was selected with a profile of the president on the front (obverse) and heads of wheat representing prosperity on the back (reverse). Saint-Gaudens had been dead for two years when the penny was released in 1909.

The Lincoln penny marked a revolution in U.S. coin design. For the first time an actual individual was placed on an American coin. Lincoln would hold the honor of being the *only* person displayed on U.S. coinage until 1932 when the image of Washington was placed on the quarter in honor of his 200th birthday. "There you have the beginnings of this superstition," Mudd said. "Lincoln was the only person on a

coin for so long that it obviously came to be considered bad luck to pick a penny up when it was face down." Lincoln has appeared on more U.S. currency than any other individual. Not only has the penny given him this honor, but he's also on the \$5 bill and was on various other legal tender during the 1800s. With the exception of British Queens Victoria and Elizabeth II, Lincoln has appeared on money more than anyone in world history, according to the American Numismatic Association.

Lincoln had appeared on paper money before the modern design of the \$5 bill. In 1861 the U.S. Treasury placed Lincoln on the front of a federal \$10 demand note, along with a woman representing art. An American eagle was the centerpiece. These demand notes were the first "greenbacks" printed by the United States. The bearer could go to a bank and exchange them for their face value in gold—and later, silver—coin. They did not bear the Treasury Department seal or the names of the treasurer or the register of



WHY HONEST ABE?

HOW HAD ABRAHAM LINCOLN been selected for the \$5 bill in the first place?

"We researched this and could not find anything," said Claudia Dixon, spokesperson for the U.S. Bureau of Printing and Engraving. Rod Gillis of the American Numismatic Association explained that discussions about who would be on what bill in the 1920s were conducted behind closed doors and were not considered official business. "Most of this selection process was in the 1920s," he said.

The large folding bills—notoriously called "saddle blankets"—of the early 20th century measured 74 inches by 3.125 inches; the bill was reduced to today's standardized 6.14 inches by 2.61 inches in 1928.

The Lincoln \$5 bill saw other changes shortly after the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Fearing an invasion of the islands, \$5 bills destined for Hawaii had the word HAWAII printed across the front and back and the serial numbers and Treasury seal colors were changed from green to brown so they could be identified as worthless if there were a Japanese takeover. The Treasury seals on \$5 bills issued to U.S. troops in North Africa were printed in yellow so they could be easily identified if captured by Italian or German troops. —MC



THE MONEY MUSEUM

SITTING ON THE SOUTH SIDE of the Colorado College campus in Colorado Springs, the Money Museum is open to the general public and operated by the American Numismatic Association. Its library holds more than 50,000 books and documents on the history of world currency. But it is the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum housed within the structure that is the marvel. Comprising two stories of some of the rarest coins in the world, it features one of the first coins ever minted: A 2,600-year-old coin from the Asia Minor kingdom of Lydia.

The Henry W. Bass Collection is nothing less than literally walls of rare \$20 gold coins minted throughout American history, along with paper money tracking the history of the United States. All told, the Money Museum holds more than 250,000 objects telling the story of money and its impact on human society. The association itself has a membership of 32,000.

"We may not be as well known among the general public, but our background is well known among coin collectors," said Jay Beeton, public relations director for the association. "The museum's exhibits look at culture and time through the prism of money." —MC



the Treasury. Eventually some 60 million were printed as the federal government struggled to raise revenue to fight the Civil War. A staff of Treasury employees sat for hours each day placing signatures on the paper money.

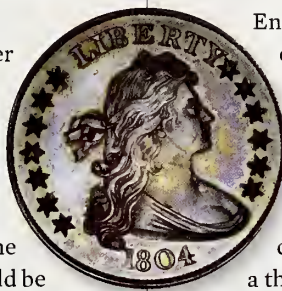
The notes were first authorized by Congress in July 1861 and again the following month in anticipation of Treasury Secretary Samuel Chase's report on the financial cost of preserving the Union through force. The Chase report, released in December 1862, informed Congress that \$300 million would be needed for the 1863 fiscal year and another \$600 million the following.

The Civil War also witnessed a high number of coins either hoarded by individuals or sent out of the country because of the value of the metal in them. This forced the U.S. government to print "fractional" or under dollar currency. In essence, paper money that served as coins. Lincoln was placed on the front of the 50-cent fractional note. Curiously, these could be taken to a post office and be redeemed for face value in stamps. It wasn't until 1876 that there was enough coinage in circulation for the Treasury Department to discontinue printing fractional notes.

Lincoln was also placed on the front of the \$100 legal tender note in 1869 and on the \$500 gold certificate in 1882. The United States continued producing gold certificates until 1933 when the federal government took them out of circulation and it was illegal for U.S. citizens to own gold.

Multiple currencies flood market

Woodrow Wilson and his Federal Reserve banking system entered the realm of money shortly after his triumph over both Teddy Roosevelt and President William Howard Taft in 1912. Wilson was able to get the Federal Reserve passed into law in 1913. Lincoln was placed on the \$5 Federal Reserve Note in 1914, but off-center on the first notes printed. It was not long before the next series had Lincoln at the center of the bill. The design was reissued in 1918 by all 11 Federal Reserve banks.



Lincoln and the \$5 bill faced some competition. At the turn of the 20th century there were more National Bank \$5 notes in circulation than there were U.S. Treasury notes. The U.S. government had granted certain large banks charters under which they could produce their own currency, and there was other legal tender from 1863 to 1929. It often featured more artistic designs than the Treasury notes, and often it was multicolored. The bills were encoded starting in 1902 with a letter on the front indicating from what regional banks they were issued: N for New

England banks, E for Eastern banks, S for Southern banks, M for Midwest banks, W for West, and P for banks in the Pacific region. At the beginning of the 20th century, many of these bank notes had the portrait of another assassinated president, James Garfield, on the front, but not at center. Many of the banks dropped Garfield in 1902 after Congress passed a third charter allowing banks to issue their own monies and replaced him with President Benjamin Harrison. During the Wilson era and well into the Roaring Twenties, there were more Harrison notes in circulation than Lincoln bills.

After the end of World War I, the U.S. Treasury Department issued a \$5 Silver Certificate in 1923 featuring Lincoln's portrait. The bill was dubbed the "porthole" note because the words "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" circled Lincoln's portrait. Even before the new Silver Certificates went to press, their fate was sealed. Britain was having problems meeting expenses in her India possessions during World War I that had to be paid in silver. Trying to help its ally, Congress sold Britain 200 million ounces of silver by way of the Pittman Act in 1918. It retired the number of silver certificates from \$470 million in 1917 to only \$98 million in 1920. The numbers continued to decrease because the U.S. silver stockpile had been fatally drained by the Pittman Act.

MIKE COPPOCK wrote about early oil wildcatters in the March/April 2008 issue of the magazine.

Dutch Colonials

AS NEW YORKERS CELEBRATE 400 YEARS OF HISTORY,
THEY LOOK BACK TO THE FORGOTTEN COLONY
OF NEW NETHERLAND THAT STARTED IT ALL.

BY LESLIE ALBRECHT HUBER



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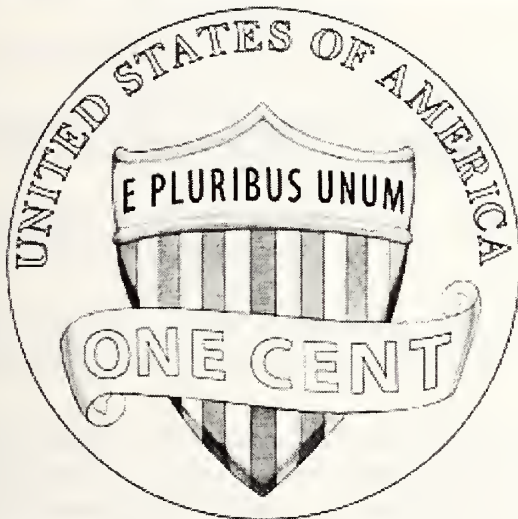
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U.S. Mint unveils tails side of Lincoln penny

[Photos](#)



THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Nov 12, 2009 @ 11:37 PM

Last update Nov 13, 2009 @ 12:45 AM

The U.S. Mint on Thursday announced its choice for the new "tails" side of the Lincoln penny beginning in 2010.

The design, dominated by a Union shield, is emblematic of Abraham Lincoln's "preservation of the United States as a single, unified country," according to a statement by the Mint.

The design was revealed at a ceremony held to release the fourth 2009 Lincoln bicentennial penny. The reverse of that penny, which shows the U.S. Capitol, commemorates Lincoln's years as president.

The third penny, released in Springfield in August, commemorated Lincoln's life in central Illinois. Other pennies were released earlier in Kentucky, Lincoln's

birthplace, and Indiana, where he grew up.

The shield penny to be issued starting in 2010 was designed by Mint associate designer Lyndall Bass.

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DRB

1 week ago

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This is all great but I have to ask a question - why do we even use pennies these days? It costs the mint far more than one cent to produce a penny. Plus to most consumers and businesses, pennies are just a pain. I propose rounding every transaction to the nearest nickel and calling it even.

BOUNTY HUNTER

1 week ago

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100 pennies equal \$1.00 lets keep the penny our grandchildren need something to save and collect. First the penny leaves us, then the nickel, then the dime, quarter, half, and then the paper money. Then our Government will tell us 'if you want something come ask us, we will tell you if you need it or not'.

Ray Brown

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US Mint Offers 2009 Lincoln Cent Presidency Design Two Roll Set

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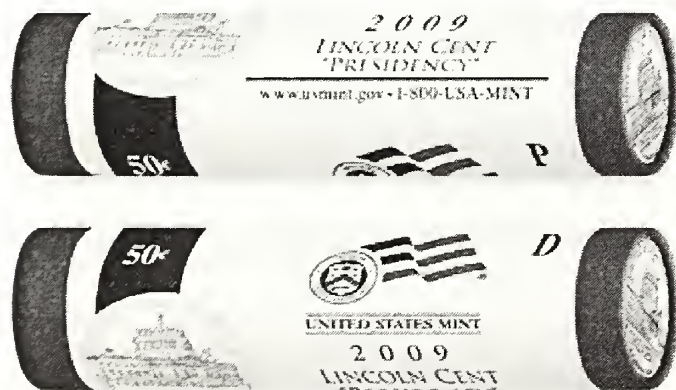
US Mint Offers 2009 Lincoln Cent Presidency Design Two Roll Set

By [Coin Update Staff](#) on November 12th, 2009

Categories: [US Coins](#), [US Mint](#)

Today, November 12, 2009 at 12:00 PM ET, the United States Mint began sales of the **2009 Lincoln Cent Two Roll Set** for the new "Presidency" design.

To celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the United States Mint issued four different reverse designs for the 2009 Lincoln Cent. Each design represents a different stage of Lincoln's life. The latest and final design represents his Presidency in Washington DC from 1861 to 1865. It depicts the half completed Capitol Dome, symbolizing a nation torn apart by civil war and Lincoln's resolve to guide the country through its most grave crisis.



The two roll set includes 100 of the new 2009 "Presidency" Lincoln Cents. This is comprised of one 50-coin roll from the Philadelphia Mint and one 50-coin roll from the Denver Mint. The rolls come in custom designed

US Mint branded wrappers, which depict the coin design and indicate the mint of origin, year of issue, and face value. The coins contained in the rolls have never been circulated.

Each set is priced at \$8.95 plus applicable shipping and handling charges. The US Mint has placed an ordering limit of five sets per household on the product.

The previous two roll set featuring the "Professional Life" design also remains available for sale at the US Mint.

[Online: [US Mint Product Page](#)]



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Final 2009 Lincoln Penny Mintages Available

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Coin Update News:

Final 2009 Lincoln Penny Mintages Available

By [Coin Update Staff](#) on January 13th, 2010

Categories: [US Coins](#)

Last year the United States Mint issued four different reverse designs for the **2009 Lincoln Penny** to recognize the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln. Each design represented a different stage of his life from his humble beginnings in Kentucky to his Presidency in Washington DC. The final mintages for each of the designs are now available.



The mintages for the recently released 2009 Lincoln Cent "Presidency" design will draw the most attention. There were 129,600,000 coins produced at the Philadelphia Mint and 198,000,000 coins produced at the Denver Mint.

Collectors often watch mintage figures for an indication of the rarity of coins. A sufficiently low

mintage can result in higher prices. The mintages for each of the four designs at each US Mint facility are indicated below.

2009 Lincoln Cent Mintage

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Birthplace - Philadelphia | 284,400,000 |
| Birthplace - Denver | 350,400,000 |
| Formative Years - Philadelphia | 376,000,000 |
| Formative Years - Denver | 363,600,000 |
| Professional Life - Philadelphia | 316,000,000 |
| Professional Life - Denver | 336,000,000 |
| Presidency - Philadelphia | 129,600,000 |
| Presidency - Denver | 198,000,000 |

The mintages of the 2009 Lincoln Cents were much lower than historical norms due to a combination of factors. The status of the economy and a backwash of older coinage have reduced the need to produce new coins for circulation. The four different designs also caused the already low mintage to be split across four different issues.




To put the figures for the 2009 Lincoln Cents in perspective, the 2008 Lincoln Cent had 2.56 billion coins produced by the Philadelphia Mint and 2.85 billion coins produced by the Denver Mint. Every year from 1975 to 2008, the mintage for each date and mint mark combination of the Lincoln Cent series has been in the billions. The last time the mintage for an individual one cent coin issued for circulation has been as low as the current level was back in 1955 when the San Francisco Mint produced 44,610,000 coins.

Production of the one cent coin should rebound next year with the issuance of the 2010 Lincoln Cents. Although the economy and stockpiles of older coinage may continue to be a drag on production, only a single design will be minted for the entire year.

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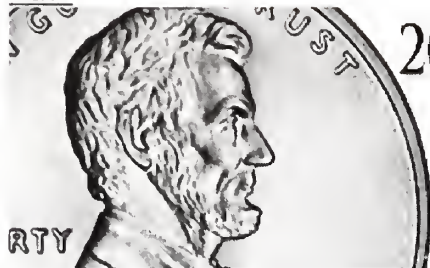
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2009 LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL ONE CENT PROGRAM

2009 Lincoln Bicentennial One Cent Program

In 2009, the United States Mint will mint and issue four different one-cent coins in recognition of the bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's birth and the 100th anniversary of the first issuance of the Lincoln cent. The reverse (tails) designs were unveiled September 22 at a ceremony held at the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. While the obverse (heads) will continue to bear the familiar likeness of President Lincoln currently on the one-cent coin, the reverse will reflect four different designs, each one representing a different aspect, or theme, of the life of President Lincoln.

The themes for the reverse designs represent the four major aspects of President Lincoln's life, as outlined in Title III of [Public Law 109-145](#), the Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005:

- [Birth and early childhood in Kentucky \(1809-1816\)](#)
- [Formative years in Indiana \(1816-1830\)](#)
- [Professional Life in Illinois \(1830-1861\)](#)
- [Presidency in Washington, DC \(1861-1865\)](#)

The new one-cent reverse designs will be issued at approximately three-month intervals throughout 2009. The Secretary of the Treasury approved the designs for the coins after consultation with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, and after review by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

Reverse inscriptions will continue to include "United States of America," "E Pluribus Unum" and "One Cent." And the four 2009 Abraham Lincoln one-cent coins will maintain the same metal content (2.5% copper, balance zinc) and [other specifications](#) as the current one-cent coin.

These coins will be issued for circulation in quantities to meet the demands of commerce. In addition, the Secretary of the Treasury shall mint and issue numismatic one-cent coins in 2009 with the exact metallic content as contained in the 1909 one-cent coin (95% copper, 5% tin and zinc). These numismatic versions will be included in the United States Mint's annual product offerings.

At the conclusion of the 2009 Lincoln Bicentennial One Cent Program, [the 2010 \(and beyond\) one-cent coin will feature a reverse design that will be emblematic of President Lincoln's preservation of the United States of America as a single and united country.](#)

[Read more](#) about the one-cent coin, which has been part of the United States' circulating currency since 1793!

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Aspect 1: Birth and Early Childhood in Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin near Nolin Creek, three miles south of present-day Hodgenville in Hardin (now Larue) County, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, the second child of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. He was named after his paternal grandfather.

The Lincoln family lived on 30 acres of the 228-acre Knob Creek Farm near Hodgenville from the time Abraham was two-and-a-half until he was nearly eight years old. It was here that he grew big enough to carry water and gather firewood.

The approved reverse design for aspect one of Abraham Lincoln's life features a log cabin that represents his humble beginnings in Kentucky with the inscriptions, "United States of America," "E Pluribus Unum," "One Cent" and "1809." It was designed by United States Mint Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) Master Designer Richard Masters and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Jim Licaretz.



Birth and Early Childhood in Kentucky Reverse

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Aspect 2: Formative Years in Indiana

In the fall of 1816, Thomas and Nancy Lincoln left Kentucky for southern Indiana, settling in Spencer County. As he grew older, young Abraham became skilled at using a plow and, especially, an axe. Although the demands of frontier life left little time for formal schooling, his parents instilled in him a love for books and Abraham educated himself by reading such works as "Life of Washington," "The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin," "Robinson Crusoe and The Arabian Nights" all by the age of 11. He could often be seen carrying a book along with his axe.

In October 1818, the family suffered a terrible tragedy when Nancy died from drinking contaminated cow's milk. For Abraham, whose mother had encouraged him to read and explore the world through books, it was a devastating blow. Thomas later married Sarah Bush Johnston, a kind stepmother who helped raise Abraham as her own.

The approved reverse design for aspect two depicts a young Lincoln reading while taking a break from working as a rail splitter in Indiana and includes the inscriptions "United States of America," "E Pluribus Unum" and "One Cent." It was designed and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Charles Vickers.



Formative Years in Indiana Reverse

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Aspect 3: Professional Life in Illinois

In 1830, Thomas decided to move the family to Illinois, where he had relatives and where the soil was rich and productive. Early on, Abraham took a variety of jobs, including piloting a steamboat, but he was beginning to develop a serious interest in politics. In 1834, he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly, and began studying the law in earnest. In September 1836, he received a law license and embarked on the career that would propel him to the White House.

In April 1837, he settled in the new Illinois state capital, Springfield. Here, he met and married Mary Todd and their first child, Robert Todd Lincoln, was born in August 1843. Lincoln continued to make a name for himself as a lawyer, and in 1846 he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives as a member of the Whig Party.



Professional Life in Illinois Reverse

Illinois Senator Stephen Douglas was up for reelection in 1858, and in June the state Republican convention nominated Lincoln for the seat. The series of famous Lincoln-Douglas debates took place that fall, and while he did not win the seat, Lincoln's logic, moral fervor, elegant language and debating skills transformed him into a national figure. At the 1860 Republican convention, he secured the nomination for President and was elected that fall.

The approved reverse design for aspect three representing the Illinois phase of Lincoln's life depicts him as a young professional standing in front of the state capitol building in Springfield. It includes the inscriptions "United States of America," "E Pluribus Unum" and "One Cent," and was designed by United States Mint AIP Master Designer Joel Iskowitz and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Don Everhart.

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Aspect 4: Presidency in Washington, DC

When Lincoln took office on March 4, 1861, the Nation was already on the verge of civil war, and fighting soon broke out at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Shortly after the Battle of Antietam, in late 1862, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in rebel territory free as of January 1, 1863. The Union victory at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 3, 1863, marked a crucial turning point in the war in favor of the North.

The summer of 1864, however, proved to be one of the most difficult of Lincoln's Presidency, and his reelection was in doubt. Peace negotiations began, but collapsed, and his cabinet was divided. But the war-time President prevailed easily that November, carrying 22 of 25 participating states. The war ended with General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

Just five days later, on April 14, President Lincoln was mortally wounded by an assassin, John Wilkes Booth, while watching a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington. Army physicians worked to save him throughout the night, but he never regained consciousness and died at 7:22 a.m. the next morning at the age of 56.

The approved design for aspect four of Lincoln's life features the half-finished United States Capitol dome, symbolizing a Nation torn apart by civil war and the resolve Lincoln showed as he guided the country through its most grave crisis. It also bears the inscriptions "United States of America," "E Pluribus Unum" and "One Cent."

It was in front of the rising dome that Lincoln began his Presidency and under the completed dome that his body lay in state, having made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the Union and defend freedom and democracy. This reverse was designed by United States Mint AIP Master Designer Susan Gamble and sculpted by United States Sculptor-Engraver Joseph Menna.



Presidency in Washington, DC Reverse

MARCH 6, 2013

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2009 United States Mint Lincoln Coin & Chronicles Set

March 4, 2013 By [Michael Zielinski](#) [2 Comments](#)

In 2009, a number of specially designed coins were released to mark the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. This included a commemorative silver dollar limited to a mintage of 500,000 and four different designs for the Lincoln Cent to represent the four stages of the life of the 16th President. The 2009 United States Mint Lincoln Coin & Chronicles Set brought together the five different issues within a single numismatic product that proved to be extremely popular with collectors.



As authorized under Title III of Public Law 109-145, the reverse design of the 2009 Lincoln Cent carried four different designs each representing a different aspect of the life of Abraham Lincoln. The first design represented his birth and early childhood in Kentucky with the image of a log cabin designed by Richard Masters. The second design represented his formative years in Indiana with a design by Charles L. Vickers presenting an image of Lincoln taking a rest from rail splitting to read a book. The third design represented Lincoln's professional life in Illinois with an image of him standing before the State Capitol building, as designed by Joel Iskowitz. The final design represented his Presidency in Washington D.C. with a scene of the Capitol Dome undergoing construction designed by Susan Gamble.

Each of these designs was released for general circulation in the standard composition of 97.5% zinc and 2.5% copper. As provided by the authorizing legislation, collector versions of the coin were produced in the original composition of 95% copper. These would be included in the annual proof and uncirculated coin sets, a separate 2009 Lincoln Cent Proof Set, and the Lincoln Coin & Chronicles Set.



Under separate legislation Public Law 109-285, a commemorative silver dollar was authorized to honor Abraham Lincoln. The obverse design would feature a portrait designed by Justin Kunz based on a sculpture created by Daniel Chester. The reverse would feature the final 43 words of the Gettysburg Address surrounded by a laurel wreath with a reproduction of Lincoln's signature at the base. The reverse was designed by Phebe Hemphill.



2009 Abraham Lincoln **SILVER DOLLAR U.S. Mint**
\$37.00



2009-P Lincoln Bicentennial Dollar Silver PFUC 69
\$39.00



2009 P Commemorative Abraham Lincoln Silver Dollar PCGS PR 69
\$30.15



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The commemorative silver dollars were offered in proof and uncirculated format, with a maximum mintage of 500,000 pieces across all options. Individual sales began on February 12, 2009 and a sell out occurred after approximately one month. Total sales included 325,000 proofs and 175,000 uncirculated coins. The US Mint held back a final 50,000 proof coins for inclusion in a forthcoming product.



Shortly following the sell out of the individual commemorative coins, the special product was revealed to be a "Coin & Chronicles Set" to be released later in the year.

Sales for the 2009 Lincoln Coin & Chronicles Set would officially begin on October 15, 2009. Each set would include all four of the 2009 Lincoln Cents in proof format, struck in the special composition of 95% copper, and the 2009 Lincoln Silver Dollar also in proof format. Supplemental materials included a reproduction of a photograph of Abraham Lincoln, a reproduction of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's handwriting, and a certificate of authenticity. These items were placed in a leather-like tri-fold case with accompanying slip cover.

The price original price for each set was \$55.95 with an ordering limit of only one set per household imposed by the US Mint.

By the time of release for this special set, the individual proof silver dollars had been sold out for several months and were fetching around \$60 to \$70 each in secondary market sales. This served to bolster the already considerable collector anticipation for this numismatic product.



When sales for the set officially opened, the US Mint's website slowed to a crawl, making it difficult for many collectors to place their orders. Within the first five hours of availability, sales had reached nearly 30,000 units. This was an impressive start considering the ordering limit of just one per household.

By October 16, 2009 at 6:00 PM ET, the United States Mint posted a waiting list notice on their website. This indicated that orders had been received to reach the 50,000 product limit. For a brief period, orders were accepted for placement on a waiting list which would be fulfilled in the event any cancellations. All told, the product managed to sell out within 30 hours of availability.

[2009 United States Mint Lincoln Coin & Chronicles Set](#)

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SEARCH COIN UPDATE

Almost immediately after the sell out, the Lincoln Coin & Chronicles Set began selling on the secondary market for nearly triple the original issue price. Although the premiums have subsided in recent years, the sets still command a strong premium over the original price.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | 2009 lincoln coin chronicles set \$100.01 Free Shipping |  | 2009 LINCOLN COIN & CHRONICLES SET \$138.95 Free Shipping |
|  | 2009 US Mint Lincoln Coin & Chronicles \$149.00 |  | 2009 United States Mint Lincoln Coin & Chronicles \$77.00 |
|  | 2009 Lincoln Coin & Chronicles Set - U.S. \$155.00 Free Shipping |  | 2009 UNITED STATES MINT \$156.00 Free Shipping |
|  | 2009 United States Mint Lincoln Coin & Chronicles \$175.00 |  | 2009 LINCOLN COIN & CHRONICLES \$399.00 Free Shipping |

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Comments

deacono says:

March 4, 2013 at 7:48 pm

I purchased one of these sets a year or two ago and really enjoy it. I purchased one for \$120 plus free shipping. great set i wish the US Mint could get more creative and put out more sets with this kind of quality and creativity.

Tim says:

March 5, 2013 at 10:51 am

Great set, agree with the first comments. Someone put a lot of thought in how this was put together. Come on US Mint do more like this !!!!!

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